

Volunteers needed for Bateman Island cleanup



Help is needed to clean up fire damage on Bateman Island. (This picture was taken before the fire.)

Todd Nelson, *Bechtel Hanford*

Volunteers are needed to help clean up Bateman Island on Saturday, March 23, and Saturday, April 6. Much of Bateman Island was burned last summer in a suspected arson fire.

Work on each day will be divided into two shifts: 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Volunteers are asked to register in advance to work one or more shifts by sending an e-mail message to batemancleanup@bhi-erc.com or to ^Bateman Island Cleanup, or calling April Johnson at 372-9185. Volunteers will be asked to provide their names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and work time preferences.

Volunteers who register in advance will receive additional information, including a registration form, liability waiver and parking information. Walk-in volunteers are welcome, but advanced sign-up is encouraged.

Volunteers must be 12 years and older. Children aged 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers should bring heavy work gloves and bottled water for personal use, and wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, sturdy footwear, hats, sunglasses and other sun protection.

Garbage collection containers will be provided, and portable toilets will be available.

Cleanup of the island is one of three Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau rivershore restoration projects sponsored by Bechtel. The other projects include revegetation of the Chamna Natural Preserve on the Yakima River and completion of the walking and bicycle path between Columbia Point and the Shilo Inn.

Cleanup of Bateman Island is a joint effort of the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau, Bechtel, the city of Richland, the Tri-Cities Rivershore Enhancement Council, Benton County, the Tapteal Greenway Association, several Native American tribes and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. ■